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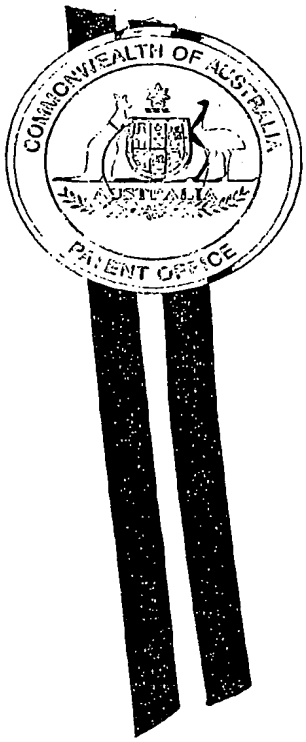

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Eleventh day of April 2005

JANENE PEISKER
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

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MONASH UNIVERSITY

A U S T R A L I A

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

for the invention entitled:

"Antiviral agents"

The invention is described in the following statement:

ANTIVIRAL AGENTS

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the use of naphthopyrans as agents in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of hepatitis B, pharmaceutical compositions for use in such therapy and novel naphthopyrans.

Background of the Invention

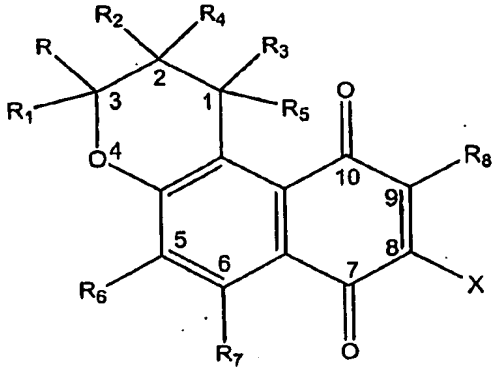
Infection with human hepatitis B virus is a major public health problem because of the ability of the virus to cause acute and chronic infections. Chronic hepatitis B virus infection (hereinafter referred to as "HBV") causes serious liver disease in humans and frequently results in cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Currently there is no completely effective therapy for the successful management of chronic HBV infections. The >250 million chronic HBV carriers throughout the world are unable to benefit from the commercial vaccine presently available.

Currently available therapies for HBV are only partially effective and may be accompanied by deleterious side effects. In addition, many patients develop antiviral resistance resulting in the loss of efficacy. Accordingly, a need exists for new effective treatments for HBV.

It has now been discovered that compounds of Formula (1) are active agents against hepatitis B virus.

Summary of the Invention

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus in a subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of Formula (1):



(1)

wherein X is OH, OR_9 or halo

R and R_1 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a saturated or unsaturated C_{3-6}carbocyclic ring;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl or together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond;

R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH, OR_9, halo or $NR_{10}R_{10}$ or together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond;

R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH or OR_9;

R_8 is independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH, OR_9 or halo;

R_9 is C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl, $C(=O)R_{11}$ or $S(O)_2R_{12}$ or OR_9 is an amino acid residue;

each R_{10} is independently selected from H and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R_{11} is C_{1-21}alkyl, C_{2-21}alkenyl, C_{2-21}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl; and

R_{12} is C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl or aryl.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a use of a compound of Formula (1) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus.

According to yet a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula (1) and a second therapeutic agent.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound of Formula (1), with the proviso that when R and R_1 are both methyl and R_4 is OH or OR_9, R_5 is not selected from OH, OR_9 or NHR_{10}.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula (1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or adjuvant, with the proviso that in the compound of Formula (I) when R and R_1 are both methyl and R_4 is OH or OR_9, R_5 is not selected from OH, OR_9 or NHR_{10}.

According to the present invention the compounds of Formula (1) may be presented in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative, salt or prodrug.

Detailed Description

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

As used herein, the term "halo" or "halogen" refers to fluorine (fluoro), chlorine (chloro), bromine (bromo) or iodine (iodo).

As used herein, the term "alkyl" either used alone or in compound terms such as NH(alkyl) or $N(alkyl)_2$, refers to monovalent straight chain or branched hydrocarbon groups, having 1 to 3, 1 to 6, 1 to 10 or 1 to 21 carbon atoms as appropriate. For example, suitable alkyl groups include, but are not limited to methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, n-hexyl, 2-, 3- or 4-methylpentyl, 2-ethylbutyl, n-hexyl or 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-methylpentyl.

As used herein, the term "alkenyl" refers to straight chain or branched hydrocarbon groups having one or more double bonds between carbon atoms. Suitable alkenyl groups include, but are not limited to ethenyl, propenyl, isopropenyl, butenyl, pentenyl and hexenyl.

The term "alkynyl" as used herein, refers to straight chain or branched hydrocarbon groups containing one or more triple bonds. Suitable alkynyl groups include, but are not limited to ethynyl, propynyl, butynyl, pentynyl and hexenyl.

The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein, refers to cyclic hydrocarbon groups. Suitable cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

The term "aryl" as used herein, refers to C_6-C_{10} aromatic hydrocarbon group, for example phenyl or naphthyl.

The term "heterocyclyl" when used alone or in compound words includes monocyclic, polycyclic, fused or conjugated hydrocarbon residues, preferably C_{3-6},wherein one or more carbon atoms (and where appropriate, hydrogen atoms attached thereto) are replaced by a heteroatom so as to provide a non-aromatic residue. Suitable heteroatoms include, O, N and S. Where two or more carbon atoms are replaced, this may be by two or more of the same heteroatom or by different heteroatoms. Suitable examples of heterocyclic groups

may include pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, morpholino, indolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolidinyl, thiomorpholino, dioxanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydropyrrolyl etc.

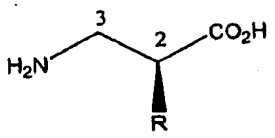
Each alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group may be optionally substituted with C_{1-3}alkyl, OH, OC_{1-3}alkyl, halo, CN, NO_2, CO_2H, CO_2C_{1-3}alkyl, $CONH_2$, $CONH(C_{1-3}alkyl)$, $CON(C_{1-3}alkyl)_2$, trifluoromethyl, NH_2, NH(alkyl) or $N(alkyl)_2$. For example, an optionally substituted aryl group may be a 4-methylphenyl or 4-hydroxyphenyl group, and an optionally substituted alkyl group may be 2-hydroxyethyl, trifluoromethyl or difluoromethyl.

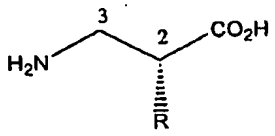
As used herein, the term "amino acid residue" refers to an α-amino acid or a β-amino acid which is attached to the naphthopyrandione structure, preferably through the carboxylic acid group. The amino acid may be a L- or D- isomer and may have a naturally occurring side chain or a non-naturally occurring side chain. The amino acid may also be further substituted in the α-position or the β-position with a group selected from $-C_1-C_6$alkyl, $-C_2-C_6$alkenyl, $-C_2-C_6$alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_a$, $-(CH_2)_nR_b$, $-PO_3H$, $-(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl or $-(CH_2)_n$aryl where R_a is -OH, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1-C_3$alkyl, $-OC_1-C_3$alkyl or $-C_1-C_3$alkyl and R_b is -OH, -SH, $-SC_1-C_3$alkyl, $-OC_1-C_3$alkyl, $-C_3-C_6$cycloalkyl, $-C_3-C_6$cycloalkenyl, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1-C_3$alkyl or $-NHC(C=NH)NH_2$, n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 6 and where each alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group may be substituted with one or more groups selected from -OH, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1-C_3$alkyl, $-OC_1-C_3$alkyl, -SH, $-SC_1-C_3$alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2C_1-C_3$alkyl, $-CONH_2$ or $-CONHC_1-C_3$alkyl.

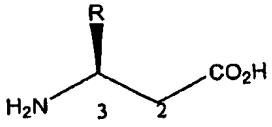
The term "α-amino acid" as used herein, refers to a compound having an amino group and a carboxyl group in which the amino group and the carboxyl group are separated by a single carbon atom, the α-carbon atom. An α-amino acid includes naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring L-amino acids and their D-isomers and derivatives thereof such as salts or derivatives where functional groups are protected by suitable protecting groups. The α-amino acid may also be further substituted in the α-position with a group selected from $-C_1-C_{10}$alkyl, $-C_2-C_{10}$alkenyl, $-C_2-C_{10}$alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_nCOR_a$, $-(CH_2)_nR_b$, $-PO_3H$,

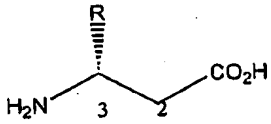
$-(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl or $-(CH_2)_n$aryl where R_a is -OH, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1$-C_3alkyl, $-OC_1$-C_3alkyl or C_1-C_3alkyl and R_b is -OH, -SH, $-SC_1$-C_3alkyl, $-OC_1$-C_3alkyl, $-C_3$-C_{12}cycloalkyl, $-C_3$-C_{12}cycloalkenyl, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1$-C_3alkyl or $-NHC(C=NH)NH_2$, n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 10 and where each alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group may be substituted with one or more groups selected from -OH, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1$-C_3alkyl, $-OC_1$-C_3alkyl, -SH, $-SC_1$-C_3alkyl, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2C_1$-C_3alkyl, $-CONH_2$ or $-CONHC_1$-C_3alkyl.

As used herein, the term "β-amino acid" refers to an amino acid that differs from an α-amino acid in that there are two (2) carbon atoms separating the carboxyl terminus and the amino terminus. As such, β-amino acids with a specific side chain can exist as the *R* or *S* enantiomers at either of the α (C2) carbon or the β (C3) carbon, resulting in a total of 4 possible isomers for any given side chain. The side chains may be the same as those of naturally occurring α-amino acids or may be the side chains of non-naturally occurring amino acids.









Furthermore, the β-amino acids may have mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substitution at the C2 and C3 carbon atoms. Mono-substitution may be at the C2 or C3 carbon atom. Di-substitution includes two substituents at the C2 carbon atom, two substituents at the C3 carbon atom or one substituent at each of the C2 and C3 carbon atoms. Tri-substitution includes two substituents at the C2 carbon atom and one substituent at the C3 carbon atom or two substituents at the C3 carbon atom and one substituent at the C2 carbon atom.

Tetra-substitution provides for two substituents at the C2 carbon atom and two substituents at the C3 carbon atom. Suitable substituents include -C_1-C_6alkyl, -C_2-C_6alkenyl, -C_2-C_6alkynyl, -$(CH_2)_nCOR_a$, -$(CH_2)_nR_b$, -PO_3H, -$(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl or -$(CH_2)_n$aryl where R_a is -OH, -NH_2, -NHC_1-C_3alkyl, -OC_1-C_3alkyl or -C_1-C_3alkyl and R_b is -OH, -SH, -SC_1-C_3alkyl, -OC_1-C_3alkyl, -C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, -C_3-C_6cycloalkenyl, -NH_2, -NHC_1-C_3alkyl or -NHC(C=NH)NH_2, n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 6 and where each alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl or heterocyclyl group may be substituted with one or more groups selected from -OH, -NH_2, -NHC_1-C_3alkyl, -OC_1-C_3alkyl, -SH, -SC_1-C_3alkyl, -CO_2H, -CO_2C_1-C_3alkyl, -$CONH_2$ or -$CONHC_1$-C_3alkyl.

The term "non-naturally occurring amino acid" as used herein, refers to amino acids having a side chain that does not occur in the naturally occurring L-α-amino acids. Examples of non-natural amino acids and derivatives include, but are not limited to, use of norleucine, 4-amino butyric acid, 4-amino-3-hydroxy-5-phenylpentanoic acid, 6-aminohexanoic acid, t-butylglycine, norvaline, phenylglycine, ornithine, sarcosine, 4-amino-3-hydroxy-6-methylheptanoic acid, 2-thienyl alanine and/or D-isomers of amino acids.

It will also be recognised that the compounds of formula (1) may possess asymmetric centres and are therefore capable of existing in more than one stereoisomeric form. The invention thus also relates to compounds in substantially pure isomeric form at one or more asymmetric centres eg., greater than about 90% ee, such as about 95% or 97% ee or greater than 99% ee, as well as mixtures, including racemic mixtures, thereof. Such isomers may be prepared by asymmetric synthesis, for example using chiral intermediates, or by chiral resolution.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative" may include any pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate or prodrug, or any other compound which upon administration to a subject, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) a compound of formula (1) or an antivirally active metabolite or residue thereof.

Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts include, but are not limited to, salts of pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic acids such as hydrochloric, sulphuric, phosphoric, nitric, carbonic, boric, sulfamic, and hydrobromic acids, or salts of pharmaceutically acceptable organic acids such as acetic, propionic, butyric, tartaric, maleic, hydroxymaleic, fumaric, malic, citric, lactic, mucic, gluconic, benzoic, succinic, oxalic, phenylacetic, methanesulphonic, toluenesulphonic, benzenesulphonic, salicylic, sulphanilic, aspartic, glutamic, edetic, stearic, palmitic, oleic, lauric, pantothenic, tannic, ascorbic and valeric acids.

Base salts include, but are not limited to, those formed with pharmaceutically acceptable cations, such as sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, ammonium, alkylammonium such as salts formed from triethylamine, meglumine, alkoxyammonium such as those formed with ethanolamine and salts formed from ethylenediamine, choline or amino acids such as arginine, lysine or histidine.

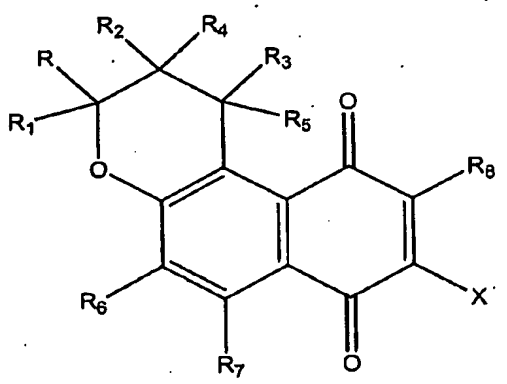
Basic nitrogen-containing groups may be quarternised with such agents as lower alkyl halide, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl chlorides, bromides and iodides; dialkyl sulfates like dimethyl and diethyl sulfate; and others.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts can be manufactured according to methods which are known and familiar to those skilled in the art.

The term "prodrug" is used in its broadest sense and encompasses those derivatives that are converted *in vivo* to the compounds of the invention. Such derivatives would readily occur to those skilled in the art, and include, for example, compounds in which a free hydroxy group is converted into a group, such as an ester, carbonate or carbamate, which is capable of being converted *in vivo* back to a hydroxy group. A prodrug may include modifications of one or more of the functional groups of a compound of formula (1). For example, similar to the approach described in US 5,672,607, antiviral naphthopyran prodrugs having enhanced water-solubility (e.g., which are better for parenterally-administered compositions) may be prepared by chemical reduction of the quinone functionalities to the

corresponding quinols, followed by reaction with phosphorous oxychloride to give the corresponding phosphoric acid esters. After *in vivo* administration of a composition containing such a solubilized antiviral naphthopyran prodrug, the prodrug will be readily hydrolyzed to the corresponding quinol, which thereafter will oxidize to re-form *in vivo* the active parent antiviral naphthopyrandione. Likewise, other kinds of derivatives may be prepared from the reduced quinol derivatives of the antiviral naphthopyrandione; these can also serve as prodrugs for use in therapeutic composition. For example, other types of esterification (e.g., acetylation) may be used to produce antiviral naphthopyran prodrugs, such as for example 7,8,10-triacetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran. Again, after *in vivo* administration the prodrug would be readily hydrolyzed and oxidized to its parent active antiviral naphthopyran compound.

In a first aspect there is provided a method of treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus in a subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of Formula (1):



(1)

wherein X is OH, OR_9 or halo;

R and R_1 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a saturated or unsaturated C_{3-6}carbocyclic ring;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl or together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond;

R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH, OR_9, halo or $NR_{10}R_{10}$ or together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond;

R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH or OR_9;

R_8 is independently selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, OH, OR_9 or halo;

R_9 is C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl, $C(=O)R_{11}$ or $S(O)_2R_{12}$ or OR_9 is an amino acid residue;

each R_{10} is independently selected from H and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R_{11} is C_{1-21}alkyl, C_{2-21}alkenyl, C_{2-21}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl; and

R_{12} is C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl or aryl.

In another aspect there is provided a compound of Formula (1), with the proviso that when R and R_1 are both methyl and R_4 is OH or OR_9, R_5 is not selected from OH, OR_9 or NHR_9.

In preferred embodiments one or more of the following definitions apply:

X is OH, OC_{1-6}alkyl or halo;

R and R_1 are independently selected from H or C_{1-3}alkyl or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a saturated or unsaturated C_{3-6}carbocyclic ring;

R_2 and R_3 are each hydrogen;

R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from H, OH, OR_9, or halo or together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond;

R_6 and R_7 are independently selected from H, OH, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy;

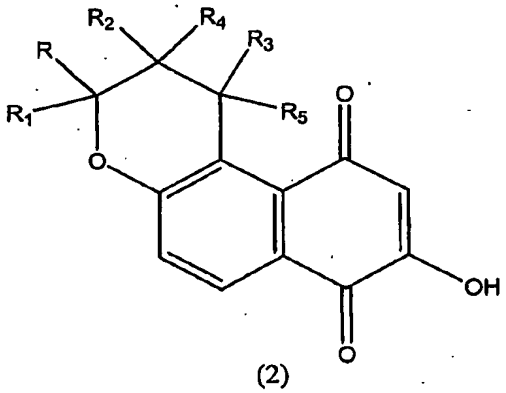
R_8 is H, OH, OR_9, C_{1-6}alkyl or halo;

R_9 is $C(=O)R_{11}$ or $S(O)_2R_{12}$;

R_{11} is C_{1-21}alkyl;

R_{12} is C_{1-6}alkyl, phenyl or tolyl.

Preferred compounds of the invention include those of formula (2):



(2)

wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are defined as for formula (1).

Preferred compounds of the invention include:

8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

9-bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

9-bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

9-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-8-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyloxy)-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

9-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-8-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyloxy)-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

8-acetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

2,9-dibromo-1,8-dihydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione,

8,9-dichloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione, and

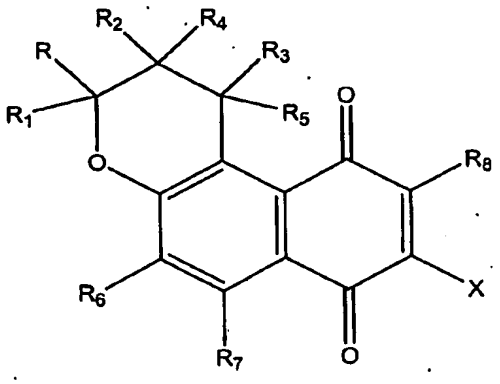
7,8,10-triacetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran.

Preferably the compound of Formula (1) is:

8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione (compound (1)),

8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione (compound (2)).

In another embodiment the compounds of the invention include those of formula (3):



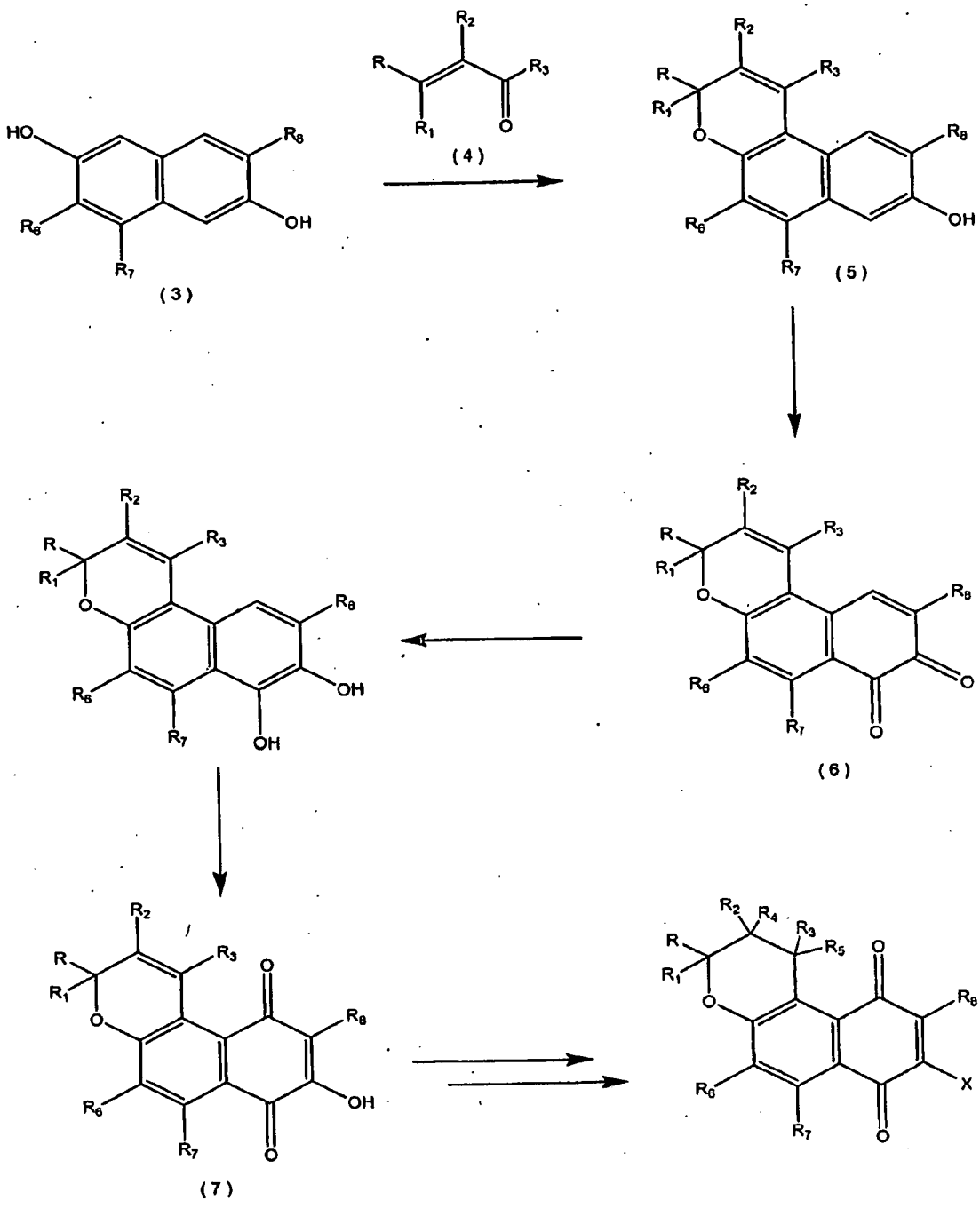
(3)

wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, and X are as defined for formula (1) and R_4 is selected from H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, halo or $NR_{10}R_{10}$ or together with R_5 and the bond between the carbon atoms to which R_4 and R_5 are attached, form a double bond.

Compounds of Formula (1) may be prepared using the methods depicted or described herein or known in the art. It will be understood that minor modifications to methods described herein or known in the art may be required to synthesise particular compounds of Formula (1). General synthetic procedures applicable to the synthesis of compounds may be found in standard references such as *Comprehensive Organic Transformations*, R. C. Larock, 1989, VCH Publishers and *Advanced Organic Chemistry*, J. March, 4th Edition (1992), Wiley InterScience, and references therein. It will also be recognised that certain reactive groups may require protection and deprotection during the synthetic process. Suitable protecting and deprotecting methods for reactive functional groups are known in the art for example in *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, T. W. Greene & P. Wutz, John Wiley & Son, 3rd Edition, 1999.

The compounds of the present invention may be prepared according to the general procedure of Scheme 1.

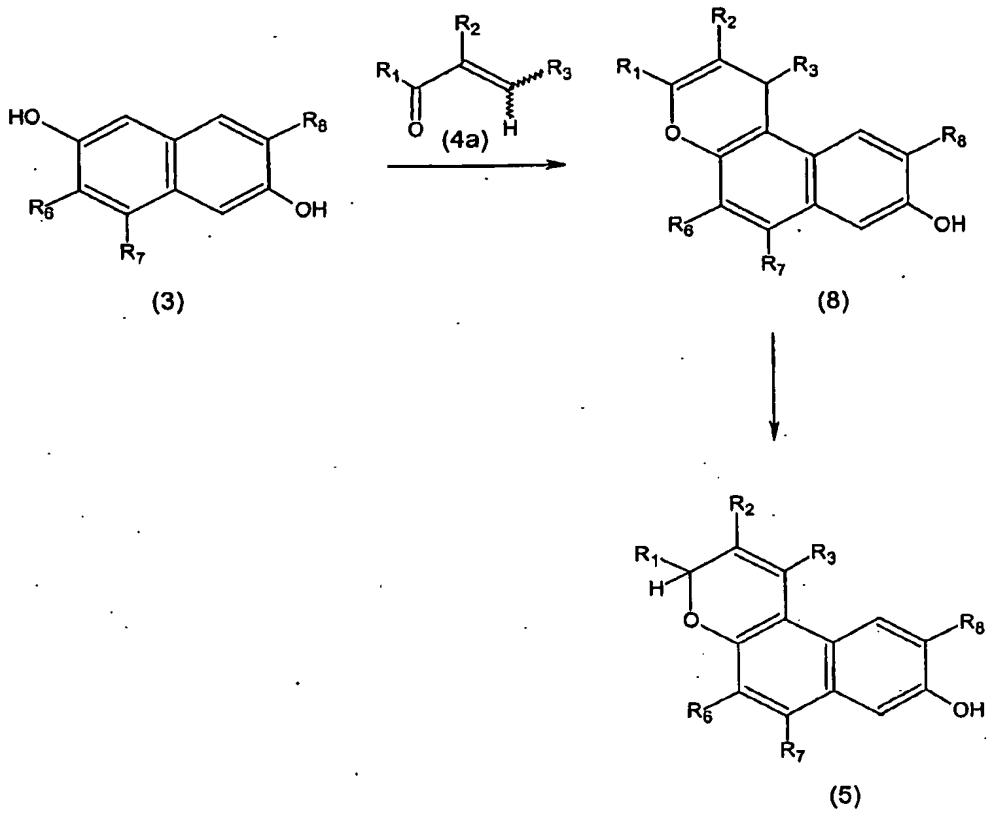
Scheme 1



An appropriately substituted 2,6-dihydroxynaphthalene (3) is reacted with an appropriately substituted enal or enone (4) in the presence of a suitable base to effect cyclisation and provide a naphthopyranol (5). The naphthopyranol is then oxidised by a suitable oxidant to the corresponding intermediate orthoquinone (6), before being reduced by a suitable reducing agent and further oxidised by a suitable oxidant to the desired naphthopyrandione (7). Further modification of the substituents on the naphthopyrandione may be effected using chemical approaches known to those skilled in the art for the generation of the desired substituent or substituents. Those skilled in the art may utilise conventional approaches to protect and deprotect certain functional groups during the reaction sequence. Such methods are well known in the art and include for example those described by Greene and Wutz (supra). The reaction sequence described in Examples 1 and 2 exemplify the preparation of compounds (1) and (2) and provide an example of how the reaction sequence of Scheme 1 is utilised. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that a wide variety of reaction conditions, including solvents, bases, oxidising agents, reducing agents, temperature and time of the reaction, may be utilised to effect the desired transformation.

A substituted enone such as (4) may, dependant upon the exact nature of the reagents and conditions used, add to the substituted 2,6-dihydroxynaphthalene (3) in the opposite orientation to that shown in Scheme 1 and still provide a naphthopyran product. Such a reaction is shown in Scheme 2, and provides naphthopyranol (8). Naphthopyranol (8) may be isomerised to provide a naphthopyranol effectively of general formula (5), which may then be subject to further reaction in accordance with the general procedures of Scheme 1 to provide compounds of Formula (1).

Scheme 2

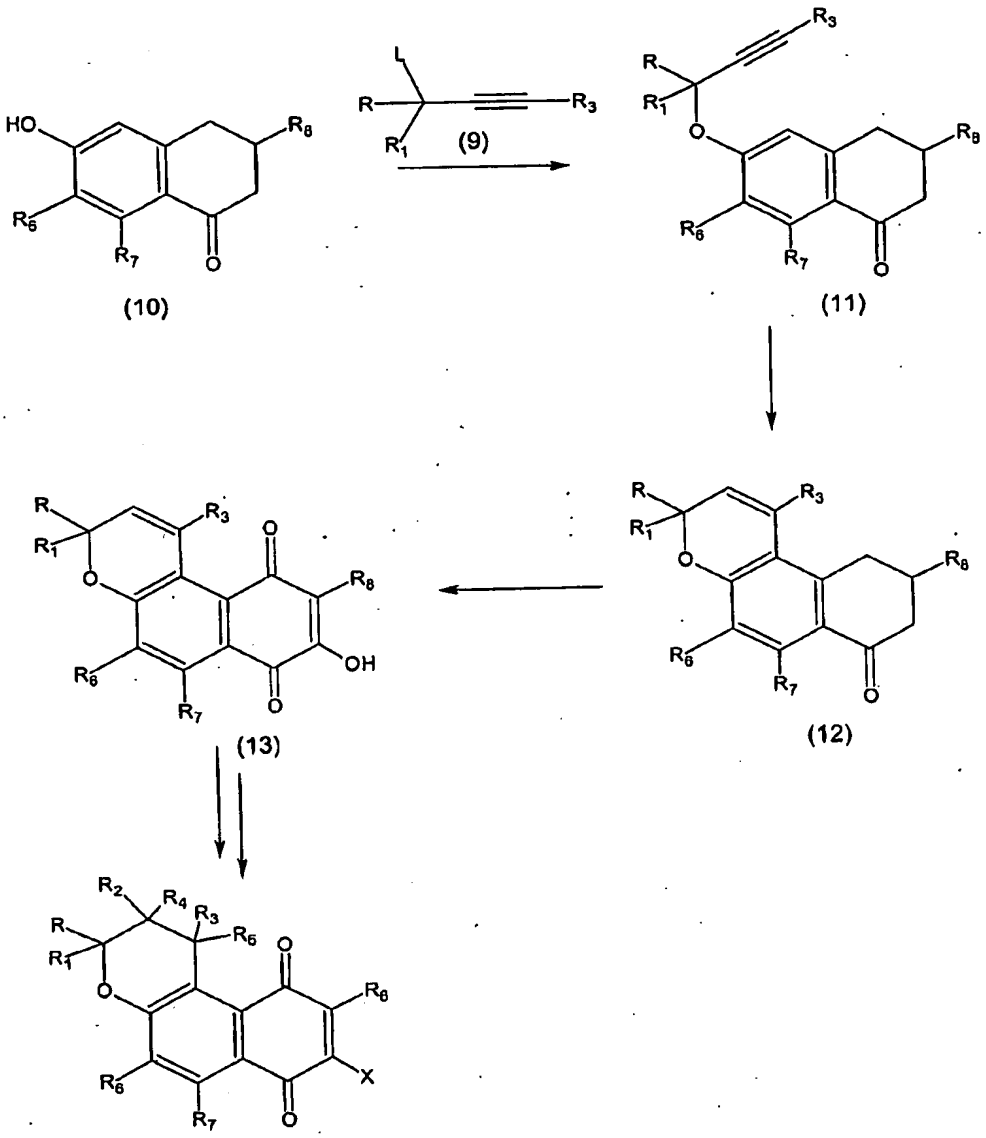


Alternative synthetic procedures which provide compounds of Formula (1) are shown in Schemes 3 and 4. In Scheme (3) an appropriately substituted butyne (9) is reacted with an appropriately substituted hydroxy tetralone (10). The group L is any suitable leaving group and includes groups such as a bromo, chloro, and hydroxyl. Reaction between the tetralone and the butyne may be acid or base catalysed to provide naphthopyran (12). In some cases the reaction may be conducted in one pot however an intermediate (11) may be isolated. Intermediate (11) may conveniently be cyclised for example by heating in the presence of a suitable base, such as diethylaniline. The cyclised product (12) is then oxidised to afford the quinone (13) which may then be further modified to provide other compounds of Formula (1).

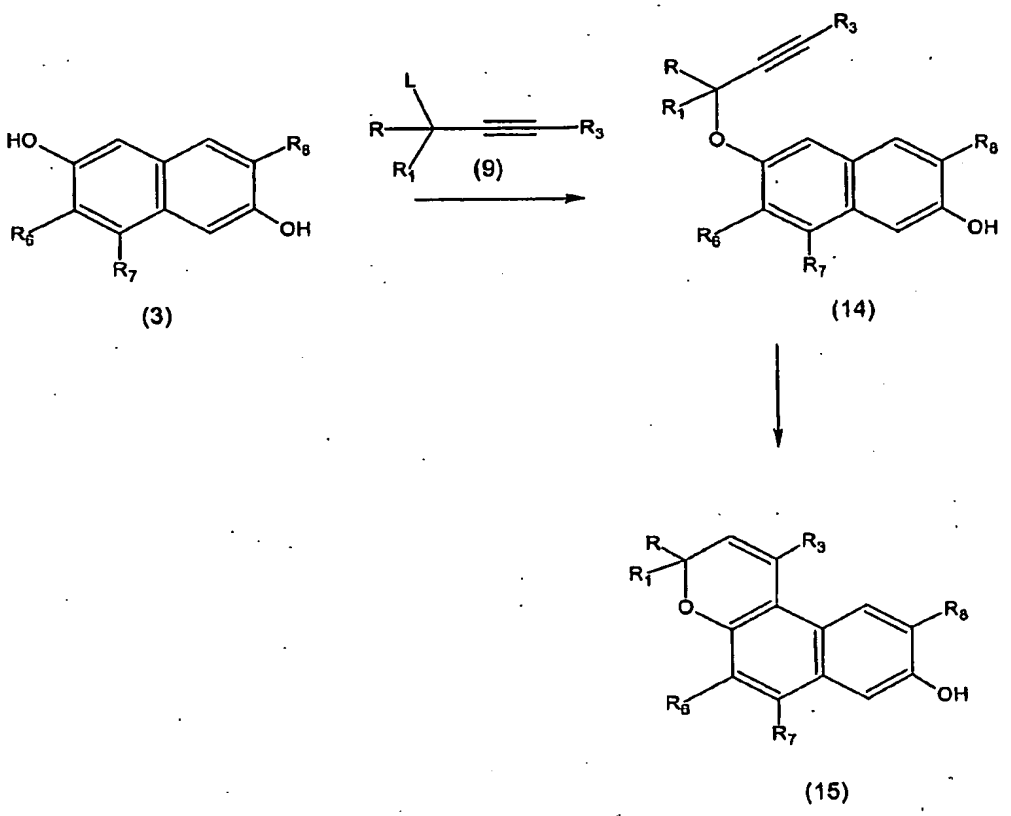
Scheme (4) outlines a similar reaction sequence to that of Scheme (3) which would start with an appropriately substituted hydroxy naphthalene. This is based upon work reported by Bigi *et al.*, J. Org. Chem., **62**, 7024-7027 (1997). The cyclised naphthopyran (15) could be treated as per compound (5) of Scheme (1) to provide compounds of the invention.

Many other methods of preparing benzopyrans have been reported in the chemical literature and those skilled in the art may adapt those methods to provide compounds of the present invention, see for example, Ishino *et al.*, Syn. Comm., **31**, 439-448 (2001).

Scheme 3

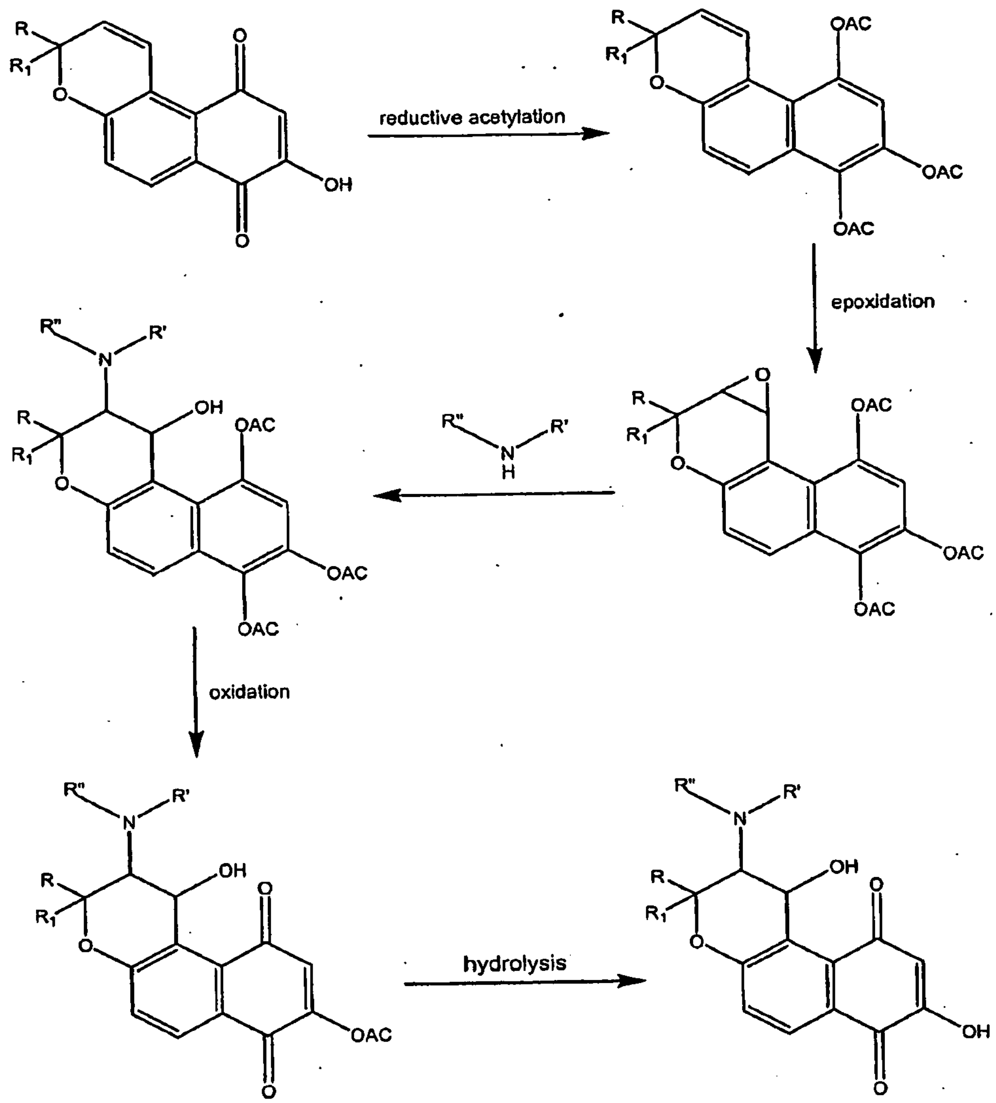


Scheme 4



Further modification may include derivatisation of double bonds. For example, when R_4 and R_5 together with the bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a double bond, the double bond may be derivatised by addition, oxidation or reduction reactions. An example of possible derivatisation of such a double bond is given in Scheme 5. Following reductive acetylation to protect the quinone portion of the compound, epoxidation of the pyran double bond, subsequent ring opening of the epoxide with an amine, and deprotection and oxidation to regenerate the quinone may be effected. Those skilled in the art could readily determine appropriate reagents and conditions to effect such transformations.

Scheme 5



A person skilled in the art would be able to modify such a reaction scheme by using different reagents to open the epoxide, using asymmetric epoxidation catalysts and varying the nature of the substituents.

As used herein, the term "effective amount" relates to an amount of compound which,

when administered according to a desired dosing regimen, provides the desired hepatitis B virus treatment or therapeutic activity, or disease prevention. Dosing may occur at intervals of minutes, hours, days, weeks, months or years or continuously over any one of these periods. A therapeutic, or treatment, effective amount is an amount of the compound which, when administered according to a desired dosing regimen, is sufficient to at least partially attain the desired therapeutic effect, or delay the onset of, or inhibit the progression of or halt or partially or fully reverse the onset or progression of hepatitis B virus. A prevention effective amount is an amount of compound which when administered according to the desired dosing regimen is sufficient to at least partially prevent or delay the onset of a particular disease or condition.

Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a use of a compound of Formula (1) in the preparation of a medicament for treating or preventing hepatitis B virus.

Suitable dosages may lie within the range of about 0.1 ng per kg of body weight to 1 g per kg of body weight per dosage. The dosage is preferably in the range of 1 µg to 1 g per kg of body weight per dosage, such as is in the range of 1 mg to 1 g per kg of body weight per dosage. In one embodiment, the dosage is in the range of 1 mg to 500 mg per kg of body weight per dosage. In another embodiment, the dosage is in the range of 1 mg to 250 mg per kg of body weight per dosage. In yet another preferred embodiment, the dosage is in the range of 1 mg to 100 mg per kg of body weight per dosage, such as up to 50 mg per kg of body weight per dosage. In yet another embodiment, the dosage is in the range of 1µg to 1mg per kg of body weight per dosage.

Suitable dosage amounts and dosing regimens can be determined by the attending physician and may depend on the severity of the condition as well as the general age, health and weight of the subject.

The active ingredient may be administered in a single dose or a series of doses. While it is possible for the active ingredient to be administered alone, it is preferable to present it as a composition, preferably as a pharmaceutical composition.

According to a further embodiment there is provided a method of treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of Formula (1) and a second therapeutic agent.

When administered as a combination, the compound of Formula (1) and the second therapeutic agent may be administered simultaneously, separately or sequentially.

The second therapeutic agent may be a known antiviral or antiretroviral agent or another pharmaceutical used in the treatment of viral infections. Representative examples of suitable second therapeutic agents include immunomodulators, immunostimulants and antibiotics. Exemplary antiviral agents include acyclovir, val-acyclovir, penciclovir, famciclovir, ganciclovir, foscarnet, ribavirin, interferon-alpha, PEG-interferon-alpha, lamivudine, adefovir, thymosin alpha 1, entecavir, telbivudine, emtricitabine, elvucitabine, MCC-478, hepavir B, MIV-210, valtorcitabine, HepeX-B, Zidovudine, didanosine, zalcitabine, stavudine, lamivudine, abacavir, tenofovir, emtricitabine, saquinavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, amprenavir, ritonavir, azatanavir, nevirapine, delavirdine, efavirenz, enfurvitide, trizivir, combivir, kaletra, MIV310, mozenavir, SPD754, SPD746, T1249, TMC125, TMC114, VX-175, tipranavir other non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and protease inhibitors. Exemplary immunomodulators and immunostimulants include interferon alpha, PEG-interferon, thymosin alpha 1, HepeX-B, HBV immunoglobulin, HBV monoclonal antibodies, and vaccines such as EngerixB, Havrix, H-B-Vax II, infanrix hep B, twinrix. Preferably the second therapeutic agent is an agent suitable for the treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus in a subject. Such therapeutic agents include, but are not limited to interferon-alpha, PEG-interferon-alpha, lamivudine, adefovir, thymosin alpha 1, entecavir, telbivudine, emtricitabine, elvucitabine, MCC-478, hepavir B, MIV-210, valtorcitabine, and HepeX-B.

Still another aspect of the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula (1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

The formulation of such compositions is well known to those skilled in the art. The composition may contain pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as carriers, diluents or excipients. These include, where appropriate, all conventional solvents, dispersion agents, fillers, solid carriers, coating agents, antifungal and antibacterial agents, dermal penetration agents, surfactants, isotonic and absorption agents and the like. It will be understood that the compositions of the invention may also include other supplementary physiologically active agents.

The carrier must be pharmaceutically acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the composition and not injurious to the subject. Compositions include those suitable for oral, rectal, inhalational, nasal, transdermal, topical (including buccal and sublingual), vaginal or parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraspinal, intravenous and intradermal) administration. The compositions may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any methods well known in the art of pharmacy. Such methods include the step of bringing into association the active ingredient with the carrier which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredient with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then if necessary shaping the product.

Depending on the disease or condition to be treated, it may or may not be desirable for a compound of Formula (1) to cross the blood/brain barrier. Thus the compositions for use in the present invention may be formulated to be water or lipid soluble.

Compositions of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units such as capsules, sachets or tablets each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient; as a powder or granules; as a solution or a suspension in an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid; or as an oil-in-water liquid emulsion or a water-in-oil liquid emulsion. The active ingredient may also be presented as a bolus, electuary or paste.

A tablet may be made by compression or moulding, optionally with one or more accessory ingredients. Compressed tablets may be prepared by compressing in a suitable machine the active ingredient in a free-flowing form such as a powder or granules, optionally mixed with a binder (eg inert diluent, preservative, disintegrant (eg. sodium starch glycolate, cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, cross-linked sodium carboxymethyl cellulose)) surface-active or dispersing agent. Moulded tablets may be made by moulding in a suitable machine a mixture of the powdered compound moistened with an inert liquid diluent. The tablets may optionally be coated or scored and may be formulated so as to provide slow or controlled release of the active ingredient therein using, for example, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose in varying proportions to provide the desired release profile. Tablets may optionally be provided with an enteric coating, to provide release in parts of the gut other than the stomach.

Compositions suitable for topical administration in the mouth include lozenges comprising the active ingredient in a flavoured base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth gum; pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert basis such as gelatin and glycerin, or sucrose and acacia gum; and mouthwashes comprising the active ingredient in a suitable liquid carrier.

The compounds of Formula (1) may also be administered intranasally or via inhalation, for example by atomiser, aerosol or nebulizer means.

Compositions suitable for topical administration to the skin may comprise the compounds dissolved or suspended in any suitable carrier or base and may be in the form of lotions, gel, creams, pastes, ointments and the like. Suitable carriers include mineral oil, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene, polyoxypropylene, emulsifying wax, sorbitan monostearate, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, benzyl alcohol and water. Transdermal devices, such as patches, may also be used to administer the compounds of the invention.

Compositions for rectal administration may be presented as a suppository with a suitable carrier base comprising, for example, cocoa butter, gelatin, glycerin or polyethylene glycol.

Compositions suitable for vaginal administration may be presented as pessaries, tampons, creams, gels, pastes, foams or spray formulations containing in addition to the active ingredient such carriers as are known in the art to be appropriate.

Compositions suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous isotonic sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bactericides and solutes which render the composition isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents and thickening agents. The compositions may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose sealed containers, for example, ampoules and vials, and may be stored in a freeze-dried (lyophilised) condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier, for example water for injections, immediately prior to use. Extemporaneous injection solutions and suspensions may be prepared from sterile powders, granules and tablets of the kind previously described.

Preferred unit dosage compositions are those containing a daily dose or unit, daily sub-dose, as herein above described, or an appropriate fraction thereof, of the active ingredient.

It should be understood that in addition to the active ingredients particularly mentioned above, the compositions of this invention may include other agents conventional in the art having regard to the type of composition in question, for example, those suitable for oral administration may include such further agents as binders, sweeteners, thickeners, flavouring agents, disintegrating agents, coating agents, preservatives, lubricants and/or time delay agents. Suitable sweeteners include sucrose, lactose, glucose, aspartame or saccharine. Suitable disintegrating agents include corn starch, methylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, xanthan gum, bentonite, alginic acid or agar. Suitable flavouring agents include peppermint oil, oil of wintergreen, cherry, orange or raspberry flavouring.

Suitable coating agents include polymers or copolymers of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid and/or their esters, waxes, fatty alcohols, zein, shellac or gluten. Suitable preservatives include sodium benzoate, vitamin E, alpha-tocopherol, ascorbic acid, methyl paraben, propyl paraben or sodium bisulphite. Suitable lubricants include magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium oleate, sodium chloride or talc. Suitable time delay agents include glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described. It is to be understood that the invention includes all such variations and modifications which fall within the spirit and scope. The invention also includes all of the steps, features, compositions and compounds referred to or indicated in this specification, individually or collectively, and any and all combinations of any two or more of said steps or features.

The invention will now be described with reference to the following examples which are included for the purpose of illustration only and are not intended to limit the generality of the invention hereinbefore described.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Compound 1: ***8-Hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione***

Step 1: ***3,3-Dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-8-ol***

A mixture of 2,6-dihydroxynaphthalene (50.0 g, 0.312 mol), 3-methyl-2-butenal (30 mL, 26.24 g, 0.312 mol) and pyridine (38 mL, 37.02 g, 0.468 mol) were heated under reflux for 3.5 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with dichloromethane (500 mL), filtered through a sintered glass funnel (porosity 3) then washed with aqueous hydrochloric acid (1 M, 2 x 250 mL) and water (1 x 250 mL). The organic layer was extracted with a solution of aqueous sodium hydroxide (2 M, 1 x 250 mL and 1 x 125 mL) and the combined aqueous extracts cooled in an ice-salt bath, acidified (with stirring) with aqueous hydrochloric acid (5 M) till a creamy-white precipitate forms (pH ~ 2). The solid

was stirred for an additional 10 min with cooling, collected by filtration, washed (water) and pumped dry under high vacuum at 40 °C to afford the desired crude product as a fluffy white-grey solid (43.9 g, 62 %). The crude product was used in the subsequent reaction without further purification.

Recrystallised from diethyl ether/hexane m.p. 120-123°C. δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.47, s, 2 x CH_3; 4.77, s, OH; 5.71, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H2; 6.97, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H1; 7.02, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, H5; 7.08, s, H7; 7.10, dd, *J* 8.7, 2.7 Hz, H9; 7.48, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, H6; 7.85, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, H10. *m/z* (ES^+, 100 V) 471 ($2M+H+H_2O$, 100%), 245 ($M+H+H_2O$, 62), 227 (M+H, 63).

Step 2: ***3,3-Dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,8-dione***

To an oxygen saturated solution of 3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-8-ol (3.0 g, 13 mmol) in acetonitrile (70 mL) was added catalytic amounts of *N,N'*-bis(salicylidene)ethylenediamineocobalt(II) hydrate, ([Co(II)(Salen)$_2$]) (300 mg, 0.91 mmol, 7 mol%), and oxygen was bubbled through the mixture until the reaction was deemed completed (generally 4.5 h) by TLC (hexane-ethyl acetate 4:1) or HPLC. The orange/brown reaction mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate and the entire mixture filtered through a plug of flash silica (11 x 7 cm) to remove the catalyst, then washed with copious amounts of ethyl acetate until the wash was nearly colourless. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue pumped dry under high vacuum to afford the desired crude product as an orange solid (2.73 g, 86%). The crude product was used in the subsequent reaction without further purification.

The product was recrystallised from ethyl acetate / hexanes to afford red needles; m.p. 189-193°C δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.50, s, 2 x CH_3; 5.92, d, *J* 10.4 Hz, H2; 6.43, d, *J* 10.4 Hz, H1; 6.71, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H9; 6.84, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H5; 7.72, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H10; 7.97, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 30 V) 263 (M+Na, 9%), 242 (M+H+1, 19), 241 (M+H, 100).

Step 3: ***8-Hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione***

A solution of 3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,8-dione (4.59 g, 19.1 mmol) in toluene (340 mL) was washed twice with a solution of sodium dithionite (24.9 g, 0.143

mol) in water (250 mL). The yellow organic layer was then added all at once to a pre-oxygen saturated solution of potassium *tert*-butoxide (12.19 g, 115 mmol) in *tert*-butanol (110 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature with oxygen bubbling for an additional 30 min (NOTE: longer periods appears to result in reduced yield). The resultant dark red solution was acidified with aqueous hydrochloric acid (initially 2 M then 5 M) till the colour turns yellow/orange (pH ~ 1), then water (~ 40 mL) was added to dissolve the formed salt, and the layers separated. The organic phase was washed with water (1 x 85 mL), and then base-extracted with a saturated solution of sodium bicarbonate (5 x 85 mL). The combined aqueous extracts were transferred back into the separating funnel and allowed to settle for 1 h (to separate further amounts of toluene) and the layers separated again. The combined base extracts were cooled in an ice-salt bath, carefully acidified (aqueous hydrochloric acid, 5M, ~ 80 mL) dropwise over ca. 30 min with stirring till the colour turns pale yellowish (pH ~ 1-2). The resultant precipitate was further cooled in the ice-salt bath with stirring, the solid collected, washed with water (~100 mL) to remove coloured impurities, and the orange/brown solid was recrystallised (absolute ethanol) to afford the desired product as orange coloured crystals (1.04 g, 21%), m.p. 208°C δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.48, s, 2 x CH_3; 5.94, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H2; 6.23, s, H9; 7.03, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H5; 7.83, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H1; 7.99, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H6, *m/z* (ES^+, 100 V) 279 (M+Na, 100%), 257 (M+H, 46), 159 (46), 137 (49), 86 (44), 59 (50).

Example 2

Compound 2: 8-Hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

A mixture of 8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione (132 mg, 0.52 mmol) and platinum (IV) oxide (15 mg) in ethyl acetate (15 ml) was stirred under an atmosphere of hydrogen for 7 h. The resulting mixture was stirred in air for 1 h then was filtered through a pad of diatomaceous earth. The pad was washed with ethyl acetate then the filtrate and washings were combined and evaporated *in vacuo* to give a green solid (128 mg, 96%). Recrystallisation from ethyl acetate / hexanes using activated charcoal gave 8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione m.p. 183.5-187°C. δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.37, s, 2 x CH_3; 1.85, t, *J* 6.8 Hz, 2 x H2; 3.30, t, *J* 6.8 Hz, 2 x H1; 6.20, s, H9; 7.03, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H5; 7.98, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 30 V) 259

(M+H, 77%), 174 (88), 159 (100).

Example 3

Compound 3: 8-Acetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

Concentrated sulphuric acid (1 drop) was added to a stirred orange suspension of 8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione (855 mg, 3.34 mmol) in acetic anhydride (10 mL) and the mixture was placed in an oil bath (oil bath temperature 100° C). The mixture immediately became homogeneous red-black. After 10 min the mixture was cooled (ice/water bath) and water (50 mL) added. Products were extracted with ethyl acetate (150 mL), the organic phase separated, dried (Na_2SO_4) and filtered through a silica plug, washing the plug with ethyl acetate until no colour eluted. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was dried overnight under vacuum to afford the title compound as a red solid (965 mg, 97%). ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 1.48 (6H, s, 2 x CH_3), 2.37 (3H, s, $COCH_3$), 5.94 (1H, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H2), 6.34 (1H, s, H9), 7.07 (1H, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H5), 7.73 (1H, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H1), 7.97, (1H, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H6).

Example 4

Compound 4: 9-Bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

Bromine (354 mg, 2.21 mmol) was weighed out and then dissolved in dry dichloromethane (4 ml). This was added dropwise to a cooled (0°C) solution of Compound 2 (506 mg, 1.96 mmol) in dichloromethane (4 ml) containing 3 drops of acetic acid. The cooling bath was removed and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min after which the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* to afford the title compound as a bright orange powder (635 mg, 96%), m.p. 213-216°C (Found: C, 53.5; H, 4.0. $C_{15}H_{13}BrO_4$ requires C, 53.4; H, 3.9 %). ν_{max} 3316m, 1660s, 1642s, 1364s, 1286s, 1262s, 1174m, 1114s, 1048s cm^{-1}. δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.38, s, 2 x CH_3; 1.87, t, *J* 6.8 Hz, 2 x H2; 3.32, t, *J* 6.8 Hz, 2 x H1; 7.06, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H5; 8.00, d, *J* 8.6 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 30 V) 361 (M[^{81}Br]+Na, 24%), 359 (M[^{79}Br]+Na, 21), 339 (M[^{81}Br]+H, 22%), 337 (M[^{79}Br]+H, 31), 231 (38), 165 (43), 159 (84), 137 (100).

Example 5

Compound 5: 9-Bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

Compound 6: 2,9-dibromo-1,8-dihydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

Sodium hydride (42 mg, 80% dispersion in oil, 1.40 mmol) was washed with dry hexanes then the supernatant was removed. The residual solid was dried under a stream of nitrogen. A solution of 8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione (327 mg, 1.28 mmol) in THF (5 ml) was added and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. This was cooled to 0°C and a solution of bromine (265 mg, 1.66 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 ml) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 20 min after which the solvents were evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a brown residue. Flash chromatography (elution with 20-50% ethyl acetate / hexanes with 1% acetic acid) gave *9-bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione* (43 mg, 10%) (Found: M+H, 334.9909, 336.9887. $C_{15}H_{12}BrO_4^+$ requires 334.9919, 336.9900). δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.49, s, 2 x CH_3; 5.99, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H2; 7.05, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H5; 7.75, bs, OH; 7.82, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H1; 8.01, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 30 V) 359 (M[^{81}Br]+Na, 18%), 357 (M[^{79}Br]+Na, 18), 337 (M[^{81}Br]+H, 34), 335 (M[^{79}Br]+H, 34), 256 (M-Br+H, 13).

Also recovered from the flash chromatography column was crude compound 5 contaminated with a product of pyran ring bromination. This was subjected to preparative HPLC (isocratic 60%A, 40%B) and gave a compound suspected of being *2,9-dibromo-1,8-dihydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-1,2-dihydro-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione* (3 mg, 0.5%), m.p. 202.5-205°C (Found: M+H, 412.9011, 414.8981, 416.8961. $[C_{15}H_{13}Br_2O_5 - H_2O]^+$ requires 412.9024, 414.9005, 416.8987). ν_{max} 3475w, 1664m, 1582m, 1370m, 1284s, 1262s, 1184m, 1122m, 1016m cm^{-1}. δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.59, s, CH_3; 1.66, s, CH_3; 4.42, d, *J* 3.8 Hz, H2; 4.73, bs, OH; 5.50, d, *J* 3.8 Hz, H1; 7.22, d, *J* 8.7 Hz, H5; 8.13, d, *J*

8.7 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 70 V) 457 (M[^{81}Br][^{81}Br]+Na, 13%), 455 (M[^{81}Br][^{79}Br]+Na, 31), 453 (M[^{79}Br][^{79}Br]+Na, 22), 435 (M[^{81}Br][^{81}Br]+H, 7), 433 (M[^{81}Br][^{79}Br]+H, 18), 431 (M[^{79}Br][^{79}Br]+H, 12), 417 (M[^{81}Br][^{81}Br]-H_2O+H, 16), 415 (M[^{81}Br][^{79}Br]-H_2O+H, 36), 413 (M[^{79}Br][^{79}Br]-H_2O+H, 20), 336 (M-[^{79}Br +H_2O]+H, 100), 334 (M-[^{81}Br +H_2O]+H, 100).

Example 6

Compound 7: 9-Bromo-3,3-dimethyl-8-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyloxy)-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione

Pyridine (0.15 ml 1.85 mmol) was added to a cooled (0°C), stirred solution of crude 9-bromo-8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl -3*H*-naphtho[2,1-*b*]pyran-7,10-dione from Example 5 (235 mg, 0.70 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (5 ml) under nitrogen. A solution of 4-methylbenzenesulfonyl chloride (0.148 mg, 0.78 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (4 ml) was added dropwise, then stirring was continued for 1 h at 0°C. Diisopropylethylamine (1.0 ml, 5.74 mmol) was added and stirring was continued for a further 3 h when hydrochloric acid (1 M) was added then the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane and ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were dried and evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a brown residue. This was subjected to flash chromatography (eluting with 30% ethyl acetate / hexanes) to afford *9-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-8-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyloxy)-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione* (97 mg, 28%), m.p. 167-168°C (Found: M+H, 490.998, 488.999. $C_{22}H_{18}BrO_6S^+$ requires 490.999, 489.001). ν_{max} 1672s, 1388m, 1288s, 1218m, 1172s, 1112m, 1018m, 1004m, 732s, 706m, 688 cm^{-1}. δ (^{1}H) (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.49, s, 2 x CH_3; 2.50, s, Ar CH_3; 6.00, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H2; 7.10, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H5; 7.41, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, 2 x H3'; 7.69, d, *J* 10.5 Hz, H1; 7.98, d, *J* 8.1 Hz, 2 x H2'; 8.00, d, *J* 8.4 Hz, H6. *m/z* (ES^+, 30 V) 508 (M[^{81}Br]+NH_4, 19%), 506 (M[^{79}Br]+NH_4, 19), 492 (M[^{81}Br]+H+1, 26), 491 (M[^{81}Br]+H, 100), 490 (M[^{79}Br]+H+1, 96), 489 (M[^{79}Br]+H, 96), 445 (13), 194 (12), 166 (14).

Example 7

7,8,10-triacetoxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran

A stirred solution of 8-hydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-3H-naphtho[2,1-b]pyran-7,10-dione (110 mg, 0.93 mmol) in acetic anhydride (3 mL) and pyridine (4 mL) was heated in an oil bath

at 60°C for 15 min. Zinc powder (530 mg) was added in one portion and the mixture became pale yellow. After 15 min heating, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a sinter (porosity 4), with ethyl acetate washings. The filtrate was poured onto ice/water (20 mL) and acidified with aqueous hydrochloric acid (2.0M). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase washed with ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried (Na_2SO_4), filtered ands concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid was recrystallised from ethanol to afford the title compound as a colourless solid (96 mg, 58%). ^{1}H NMR (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 1.46 (6H, s, 2 x CH_3), 2.31 (3H, s, COC*H*$_3$), 2.37 (3H, s, COC*H*$_3$), 2.43 (3H, s, COC*H*$_3$), 5.64 (1H, d, *J* 10.1, Hz, H2), 7.11 (1H, s, H9), 7.12 (1H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz, H6), 7.23 (1H, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H1), 7.67 (1H, d, *J* 9.0 Hz, H5).

Antiviral Activity

Tests of antiviral activity were performed in 2.2.15 human hepatoma cells infected with hepatitis B according to the method of Korba and Gerin, Antiviral Research, 19, 55-70 (1992). Briefly, cells were seeded into 96 well plates and cell media containing various concentrations of the compounds was added. Media was changed daily for 9 days and fresh media containing compound was added each day. On the 10th day, viral DNA in the supernatant was measured and the reduction in the amount of virus in the supernatant was calculated compared to cells incubated without drug. Six separate replicates were performed for each drug concentration. The effective concentration for 50% and 90% inhibition of the replication of the virus was determined from dose response curves. Results for some compounds of the invention are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Test Compound	EC50 μM	EC90 μM
Compound 1	0.6	3.4
Compound 2	1.1	13

Antiviral activity was also examined in HepG2 hepatoma cells infected with HBV containing mutations associated with resistance to lamivudine (3TC). Two cell lines containing an L180M mutation in the HBV DNA polymerase, and a double L180M/M204V mutation were used. Cells were plated out in six well plates and allowed to attach overnight. Next day, the culture medium was replaced with either medium alone or medium containing the desired concentration of antiviral compound. Media was changed for fresh medium with or without antiviral compound on day 3. On day 5, supernatant and cell lysates were analysed for levels of HBV core protein by non-denaturing Western blot using an anti-HBV core antibody.

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